## REMARKS

This amendment is filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 and meets the requirement for a "submission" under 37 CFR 1.114(c). The RCE is filed after appeal, but prior to a decision on appeal, therefore, will be treated as a request to withdraw the appeal and to reopen prosecution before the Examiner under 37 CFR 1.114(d).

In the Advisory Action dated December 4, 2003, the Examiner has stated that claims 17, 28-30, 34, 35, 38 and 39 would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims. This amendment is timely filed, and cancels claims 18, 31-33, 36, 37, 40 and 41 as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 17, 28-30, 34, 35, 38 and 39.

Applicants also respectfully request rejoinder of claims 19-22 in this application. These claims are drawn to a biotechnological method involving the product of claim 17. In a Response to Official Action filed on August 22, 2001, Applicants reserved the right to rejoin claims 19-22 upon indication of allowability of product claim 17. Claim 19 has been amended to correct antecedent dependency to claim 17. Support for this amendment can be found at page 2, lines 10-15; page 2, line 20 to page 3, line 2; page 6, lines 9-10; page 20, lines 21-23; page 20, lines 6-10; and page 21, line 9 to page 22, line 10. Accordingly, allowance of claims 19-23 is also respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: Dec. 22, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin E. Behrendt

Registration No.: 45,599

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 753-6237 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant